

Fact Sheet September 2004

DTSC is one of six Boards and Departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. The Department's mission is to restore, protect and enhance the environmental quality and economic vitality, by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.

State of California



*California
Environmental
Protection Agency*



PROPOSED CLEANUP OF CHEMICALS AT THOMAS RANCH



View of Thomas Ranch

We invite you to review and comment on a proposed plan to cleanup toxic chemicals at the Thomas Ranch Site located on the south side of Palisades Drive in the City of Corona.

The proposed plan is called the Draft Revised Remedial Action Plan (Draft Revised RAP). This plan calls for the placement of a cover over four waste ponds and a vapor migration control system at the Site. The Department will also issue a Draft Negative Declaration which complies with the California Environmental Quality Act.

The original proposed plan was disseminated for public comment and approved in 1998. This draft revised plan is based upon updated information developed since the approval of the original proposed plan.

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control has been overseeing the investigation of chemical contamination at the Site. This draft revised plan is prepared in compliance with the Remedial Action Order issued on August 21, 1986.

Public Comment Period September 17, 2004 through October 18, 2004

We will hold a 30-day public comment period on the on the revised Remedial Action Plan (RAP) and draft Negative Declaration. We invite you to submit comments during this time. Our agency will consider your comments before a final decision is made only after all comments have been considered.

Public Meeting September 28, 2004 6:00 p.m.

Prado View Elementary School
2800 Ridgeline Drive
Corona, CA 92882

The proposed cleanup will be discussed at this meeting and DTSC staff will provide an opportunity for you to ask questions or make comments regarding this proposed plan.

***Para información en español por favor comuníquese con
Leticia Hernández al número (714) 484-5488***

History of the site

The Site is located next to Palisades Drive near Serfas Club Drive in Corona. Four waste ponds covering approximately one and one-quarter acres exist on the Site, which is a vacant parcel of land consisting of approximately 38 acres. Two or more of the oil companies from the Long Beach, Wilmington area (Shell, Unocal, ARCO, and Texaco, or their predecessors) reportedly disposed of sulfuric acid wastes from petroleum refining operations in the four waste ponds from late 1941 through the spring of 1942.

The site has been the subject of investigations since 1982. These investigations were designed to evaluate the waste ponds and their impacts to human health and the environment in the site's current configuration. Soil sampling around the ponds indicates that the waste materials have not migrated laterally beyond the pond boundaries in Ponds 1, 2, and 3. At Pond 4, it appears that in the past the waste overflowed the pond down slope to the south, covering an area of approximately 60 ft by 80 ft. The overflow is from six to twelve inches thick and is now covered with approximately eighteen inches of soil, but it occasionally rises to the surface in localized areas. There is the potential for the waste ponds to emit waste odors.

Groundwater that underlies the site has been impacted by chemical compounds that are characteristic of the waste in some areas. To control the Site's impacts and to visually improve the Site this will not likely affect the nearest drinking water well, which is approximately two miles down gradient of the Site along the Santa Ana River.

No immediate risk to the public

A human health risk assessment was completed for the site. This assessment shows that if humans have direct contact with the waste and if groundwater is used for drinking, acceptable risk levels will be exceeded. However, public access to the property and the ponds is restricted by perimeter security

fencing. In addition, groundwater at the Site is not withdrawn for drinking water purposes.

Cleanup options evaluated

Cleanup options must protect public health, have a reasonable cost, and consider the community's concerns. Three cleanup options to address the waste ponds and their associated effects were evaluated to determine the most effective course of action. These were:

- **Option 1** – No Action (*we are required by law to include this option as a point of comparison*)
- **Option 2** – Extended Cap and Vapor Migration Control System
- **Option 3** – Excavation and Off-Site Disposal of Waste

Preferred option

Option 2 is proposed for implementation at the site. It includes an engineered cover over the wastes, gas migration control systems, drainage improvements, and erosion protection. The proposed engineered cover will reduce direct contact with the waste and control the amount of storm water infiltration that could make its way through the waste down to groundwater. The proposed gas control system will address the effects of gas from the waste ponds. Option 2 is an engineered alternative to the slurry wall that was part of the originally proposed remedy.

As part of the cleanup process, Option 2 was then subjected to a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) evaluation. This evaluation concluded that the proposed cleanup option will not have adverse effects on the community or the environment. The CEQA evaluation is documented in a Draft Notice of Negative Declaration.

The draft Revised RAP documents describe the components of the proposed cleanup option. The revised RAP also presents an update of the geotechnical conditions at the site and addresses the presence of free liquids in Pond 1.

How to submit comments

The public comment period begins on **September 17, 2004** and ends on **October 18, 2004**, during which time you can provide us with your comments and questions about the Draft Revised RAP and draft Negative Declaration. All comments must be postmarked by October 18, 2004, and sent to:

Safouh Sayed, Project Manager
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5790 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630
Telephone: (714) 484-5478
E-mail: ssayed@dtsc.ca.gov.

Our agency will consider your comments before a final decision is made to approve the proposed cleanup alternative. You may also submit oral and written comments at the upcoming public meeting, on September 28, 2004 (see box on page 1 for time and place).

More information at the library and our agency's office

We invite you to learn more about the Thomas Ranch site. All the reports including the revised Draft RAP, the Draft Notice of Negative Declaration and other Site related documents are available at the following locations:

City of Corona Public Library
650 South Main Street
Corona, CA 92882
(909) 736-2381 Open Daily

Department of Toxic Substances Control
(DTSC)
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630
(714) 484-5337

To review reports at DTSC's location, please call Julie Johnson to make an appointment. The File Room hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Who to call at our agency

If you have questions or comments about the Thomas Ranch site investigation, please call or email:

Safouh Sayed
Project Manager
(714) 484-5478
Email: ssayed@dtsc.ca.gov.

Derrick Alatorre
Public Participation Specialist
(714) 484-5474
Email: dalatorr@dtsc.ca.gov

Media Inquiries:

Ms. Jeanne Garcia
(818) 551-2176
Email: jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov

For more information about DTSC, please visit our website at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

Notice of the Hearing Impaired

You can obtain additional information by using the California State Relay at 1-888-877-5378 (TDD). Ask them to contact Derrick Alatorre at (714) 484-5488 regarding the site.

Meeting Accessibility

For information on accessibility and to request reasonable accommodations, please call Leticia Hernandez at (714) 484-5488 at least one week in advance of the meeting.

COMMENT FORM AND MAILING COUPON

**Thomas Ranch Site
Corona, California**

Draft Remedial Action Plan and Draft Negative Declaration

You may use this form to:

- send us your written comments
- be added or taken off the mailing list (NOTE: if you received this fact sheet in the mail, then you are already on the mailing list and don't need to be added).

If you use this form to send us your comments, please include your name and address. If you know of anyone or organizations that would like to be on the project mailing list, please use this form to add that information. All written comments must be postmarked no later than **October 18, 2004**. Please send this form to Safouh Sayed, Project Manager, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, California, 90630. You may also e-mail this same information to: ssayed@dtsc.ca.gov.

___ Please take me off the mailing list

___ Please add me to the mailing list

Name: _____

Address: _____

Affiliation (if any): _____

Phone number (optional): _____

Comments: (If you need more space, please feel free to use another sheet of paper)

Out mailings are used only for keeping you informed of our activities. We do not routinely release our mailing lists to outside parties. However, they are considered public records and, if requested, may be subject to release.



State of California
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Derrick Alatorre
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630

**Inside:
Information on
the Thomas
Ranch Site**